



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA,
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the
Conference on Disarmament
The Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
General Debate, 22 August 2023, Geneva

Madame President,

Japan would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Seong-mee YOON, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Ninth Conference of States Parties and express our sincere appreciation for your leadership throughout the preparatory process. We also thank for the Secretariat for its dedication to the work of the ATT.

This year marks the 10th anniversary since the adoption of the ATT in 2013 and the Treaty remains relevant to the current security challenges. Since the very early days of the Treaty, Japan has contributed to the development of the process to better regulate the international trade of conventional arms and implementation of the Treaty. Japan will remain committed to playing a meaningful role in this arena.

Japan expresses deep concern at the increasing number of civilian harm caused by the illicit trade and diversion in conventional weapons. The illicit trade and inappropriate stockpile management of conventional weapons accelerate regional instability and the spread of terrorism. It is a major threat to international peace and stability. While the role of the ATT is growing, the number of states parties to it remains at 113. As we believe collective action under the ATT framework is essential, Japan would like to call on all states who are not ATT States Parties to join the Treaty to prevent illicit trade and diversion and to make the ATT more effective.

In this context, Japan welcomes the initiative of the President to host the

outreach workshop for the ASEAN region in Jakarta in May in order to facilitate dialogue with the ASEAN countries. Japan was pleased to be a part of this initiative as one of the panelists and will continue its efforts for further universalization, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, in order to enhance a sound trade control system.

Japan appreciates the revised proposals by the chair of the Working Group of Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI) and supports the proposed approach and working arrangements to focus on practical measures of national implementation and needs of cooperation and assistance through exchanges of review on implementation challenges by states parties and other stakeholders. While Japan is flexible on the way to coordinate with other working groups, Japan remains convinced that it could be useful to exchange good practices for building capacity through VTF projects.

Japan also appreciates the work of the Management Committee and is supportive of its revised proposal to streamline the ATT process with the idea of implementing it on a trial basis next year. Japan believes that it will improve the overall efficiency of the programme of work and will help to avoid duplication between the working groups and the preparatory meeting. Japan would like to further discuss this issue under agenda 10 later this week.

In conclusion, please be assured, Madame President, that Japan will extend our utmost support to you and we look forward to constructive and meaningful discussions during this week.

Thank you, Madame President